

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on January 3, 2007, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

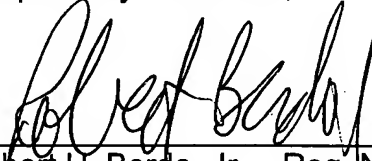
In this Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claim 31 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 42, amended independent claim 44 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 45, and has amended independent claim 46 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 47. Claims 31, 44 and 46 are the independent claims, and claims 31-36, 38-41, 44, and 46 remain pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Initially, it is noted with great appreciation that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 42, 43, 44 and 47 as being allowable over the art of record. As noted above, the independent claims have been amended to include the subject matter of these respective allowable claims. Thus, all of the Examiner's prior art rejections have been rendered moot, and this application is therefore now in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should any fee be required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and please advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted, -



March 27, 2007

Date

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RHB/vm